

VZCZCXYZ0008  
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHAAH #1181 2500908  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH(CCY ADD3576A MSI6080-695)  
P 060908Z SEP 08  
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1505  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE  
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4271  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2083  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1948  
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2519  
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEAAIA/CIA WASHDC  
RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RUEKJCS/Joint STAFF WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2864

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001181

SIPDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY SECSTATE DELETE AS INFO ADDEE

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB  
PLEASE PASS TO USTDA DAN STEIN  
ENERGY FOR EKIMOFF/THOMPSON  
COMMERCE FOR HUEPER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/06/2018  
TAGS: PGOV PREL ECON EPET TX  
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: LOTUS ENERJI OFFICIALS SAY AUDIT  
CONFIRMS VAST GAS DEPOSIT IN SOUTH YOLOTEN

REF: ASHGABAT 1139

Classified By: Charge Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Officials of the Turkish energy company Lotus Enerji told Charge September 5 that an audit done by the seismic imaging company WesternGeco confirms large gas deposits in South Yoloten. Although an audit by Gaffney-Kline, which is due to be made public in late September, is necessary in order to proceed with the TAPI pipeline, Lotus Enerji said the Turkmenistan government allowed the company to arrange for a seismic survey by WesternGeco of a small area of South Yoloten. (A Lotus Enerji board member, who lives in Houston, Texas with his family, arranged for the survey through WesternGeco's Houston office.) The survey result showed 5 trillion cubic meters just in that area. Lotus Enerji hopes to partner with M. W. Kellogg company to get the contract for sulfur removal for South Yoloten.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: Although there has been much speculation about whether South Yoloten could possibly hold the 7 trillion cubic meters of natural gas that the Government of Turkmenistan has been trumpeting, we are hearing from other sources (reftel) that the Gaffney-Kline audit, when its results are made public, will likely support and could exceed the government's figures. If WesternGeco has, indeed, found an estimated 5 trillion cubic meters in just one area, the rumors would be true. END COMMENT.

CURRAN